

Operations, Personnel, & Legislative Committee Meeting
March 20, 2006
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bryan Smith, Chair
David Williams, Vice Chair
Kevin Meachum
Bill Oliver

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Robyn McCoy, Workforce Investment
Amy Stockwell, Auditor
Tara Jaukkuri, County Board

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Don Westerman

This meeting was called to order by Chair Smith at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Motion made by Kevin Meachum to approve the minutes of February 21, 2006, seconded by David Williams, and motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by David Williams to approve the closed minutes of February 21, 2006, seconded by Kevin Meachum, and motion carried unanimously. Chair Smith confirmed the minutes will remain closed in response to a question from Kevin Meachum.

PAYROLL

Motion made by David Williams to accept the payroll presented, seconded by Kevin Meachum, and motion carried unanimously.

Bill Oliver came into the meeting.

CLAIMS

Motion made by Bill Oliver to approve the claims presented, seconded by Kevin Meachum, and motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Auditor

Amy Stockwell requested approval on three claims. The county has to pay the IL Workers Compensation Commission .1% of any claims or settlements made. Tara Jaukkuri figured this, and the state has been paid \$1,512.28; Amy said it continues to remain a low number versus our experience in prior years.

A bill from the sheriff's department was also presented from White's Auto Body for an accident on 2-17-06 involving a deputy and another car on County Highway 30. Amy said it is a final bill for \$4,954.04, and includes damage to both vehicles; accident report is available for review. Chair Smith asked if these are self-insurance and Amy Stockwell confirmed they are.

A request from the sheriff for payment out of self-insurance to Campion Barrow & Associates for some confidential medical exams intended to forestall future claims was also presented.

Motion made by Kevin Meachum to accept and pay all three claims as presented by the auditor, seconded by Bill Oliver, and motion carried unanimously.

Amy distributed the ICRMT loss run comparing 11-30-05 cases to 2-28-06 cases; cases are separated by the year it happened. The four cases from 2001 totaling \$8,509.37 are closed. In 2002 there were 11 cases and one is still open; of the \$59,973.78 shown, \$32,050.27 has actually been paid out and \$27,923.51 is in reserves. Looking at 05, there is one case where a loss has been established. If the prior loss run is looked at, there was an open case in 2004 which has now been closed and only \$2000 was spent of the \$15,000 they thought would be spent so the reserve went to the actual column. Amy said she will be presenting this report each quarter so activity can be seen. Amy feels claim activity continues to be good since the county does not have a lot of claims which she attributes to the county's employment practices, laws, and good communication between ICRMT lawyers, herself, and this committee; she said the employee handbook will also help. David Williams said he suspects the increased number of claims in 2002 is largely due to morale since the county was in the depths of their money problems which may have created frivolous type claims, and hopefully we will not see this again. David Williams asked if we had any loss experience on the current 06 year; Amy said this report is it and nothing shows for 06 yet. Kevin Meachum said the county board has gotten a good handle on understanding insurance a lot better over the last 3 or 4 years, and he attributed Amy Stockwell for pointing them in the right direction about understanding insurance.

Amy distributed her Employee Handbook Distribution Plan. She has contacted all elected officials and boards who by law do not have to adopt the handbook, and this plan is the result. She has not heard yet from the circuit clerk or the recorder. Departments with a 101 in the document column will receive the employee handbook, and she is having it printed with a nice cover; distribution will be controlled so that signed forms are turned in verifying receipt of the handbook. Kevin Meachum said he has a problem with the handbook saying one thing about holidays and the highway department's union contract says another; Amy Stockwell said the union contract supercedes and the handbook spells that out. Chair Smith said that question was raised during the drafting of the handbook. Tara Jaukkuri asked if every employee gets one, and Amy Stockwell said not quite since employees of the court and health department will get their own handbook. Amy said she and Jack Ahola are going to customize the handbook before giving it to their employees. Tara Jaukkuri said she meant that even union employees are getting it even though their contract supercedes it;

this has been a big question since some of them understood they would not be getting it since they are union employees. Chair Smith said their officeholder should give it to them. Tara Jaukkuri said some union contracts do not have the drug policy or a lot of that in them, but they are in the handbook. Amy Stockwell said the sheriff has asked that the handbook only be distributed to his exempt employees and not to his union employees. Bill Oliver asked what the difference is between the handbook for court, health, and ours, and Amy said she did not know since she has not seen them; Judge Greanias advised Amy she did not need to do anything further since he would handle the distribution of their document.

Workforce Investment Solutions

Robyn McCoy said 275 Internet employees have sought services, and several are now enrolled. At Richland, several are taking welding classes at the institute for construction education and some industrial maintenance programs; they have gotten 12 – 15 jobs already. The others should be moving into employment in the next 5 months or so. Kevin Meachum asked if there would be a better success rate with these compared to Firestone as far as wages. Robyn said the state has requested a waiver from the Department of Labor for this group; those who are trade affected will not be counted in her performance measures. Kevin said he knew it was very difficult for her staff to overcome this battle last year. Robyn said it is difficult to serve the customer and meet required performance measures which the state imposes. Robyn said the educational functioning level was low from this group and many wanted to seek additional training; they were at 3rd and 4th grade level for math and reading when tested, so a tutor was hired. A math tutor went on-site at the training facility; participants went through training all day and the tutor came in a 3:00 for 1 hour every day. Post testing of individuals was done and the ones who were at 6th grade level are now at 12.9; the 3 or 4 left continue to get more individualized attention. Kevin Meachum said the state recognized the problems, and have addressed them.

Robyn said they have obligated all of their money for this group, and she has requested another \$75,000 to carry them through September. She has also requested a technical assistance grant for \$25,000 to partner with EDC to do a manufacturing study, and she will be paying 56% of the cost. The study will meet with specific manufacturers throughout the area looking at what their current needs are, future needs, skill sets, etc. so training programs can be put together and to market different types of positions to high school students. Right now, Robyn said we do not have a skilled workforce; the people who are unemployed do not have the technical skills to meet the needs of the employers. A discussion followed about schools, test scores, counselors, teachers, etc.

Chair Smith asked if youth contracts would be done anytime soon. Robyn said requests for proposals have been sent out, received back, sent to the review team, and will be reviewed on April 7 so it will probably be at the May or June meeting when approval of the contracts will be asked for. Robyn said there is a decrease in allocation for youth this year especially for the projects. The youth have been told if they stick with us from sophomore year through graduation, especially for in-school projects, the carrot dangled is we will pay for their community college,

technical school tuition. There is a big group accessing these funds, and a significant amount of money has been set aside to cover tuition which reduces the amount for contract expenses.

David Williams asked what was going on in Dewitt County, and if we have any of the pepper plant people. Robyn said most of those individuals went to Bloomington, and she is not sure if they were US citizens. Robyn said there is a very successful youth program going on in Dewitt County, and around 12% of their enrolled customers are from Dewitt County.

Amy Stockwell said she attended an excellent grant writing seminar sponsored by the Community Foundation, and she encourages other county employees to attend the next time it is offered. Robyn said they are working with the Community Foundation on the Grand Victoria Riverboat Grant they received focusing on child care, workforce issues, and land use/development.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion made by Kevin Meachum to go into closed session to discuss a worker's compensation settlement, seconded by David Williams, and motion carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Motion made by Kevin Meachum to return to open session, seconded by David Williams, and motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kevin Meachum to give the worker's compensation administrator the authority to try and settle the workers compensation case for the amount discussed in closed session, seconded by David Williams, and motion carried unanimously.

Chair Smith asked the worker's compensation administrator to get a written opinion from the state's attorney or Mr. Flynn on how this committee should proceed in the future to alleviate extra time spent which is a waste of everyone's time. David Williams asked for the committee to have this report on the process by the next meeting.

Tara Jaukkuri said next month our third party administrator, RAC, will be attending this meeting to give a presentation on changing the company who does our medical bill savings, Corvel.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, at 5:30 p.m. at the Macon County Office Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by David Williams to adjourn, seconded by Bill Oliver, and motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Linda Koger
Macon County Board Office